



THE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ASSOCIATION

KANSAS

Excellent Teaching and Learning Every Day

# EMPOWERING REDESIGN

Igniting Student  
and Educator  
Learning

2019 Learning Forward Kansas Annual  
Leadership Conference  
January 30-31, 2019  
Drury Inn Broadmoor Hotel, Wichita

# Table of Contents

Message from the Board of Directors .....	3
Schedule at a Glance .....	4
Keynote: Robin Fogarty .....	5
Keynote: Dr. Randy Watson .....	6
Kansas Teacher of the Year: .....	7
Breakout Session A .....	8
Q & A with Randy Watson	
Redesigning Communities to Redesign Schools, Angie McDonald	
Reach For Success, Jillian Toews	
Relationships, Partnerships & Citizenship: Our Community School Journey, Dustin Springer, Shawnee Mission	
First Impressions are Lasting Impressions, Jim Beam	
Breakout Session B .....	9
Trauma Informed - Why it Matters Cindy Blasi	
Redesigning Schools Using Badges , Steve Wyckoff	
Supporting School Change with Integrated Data Management, Kyle Carlin	
Collective Teacher Efficacy- What does this mean?, Jo McFadden	
Breakout Session C .....	10
Aren't Education Standards Just for Students?, Lynn Bechtel	
Adopting a Growth Mindset for Success , Vicki Bechard	
The Redesign Loop, Shelly Graves	
Redesign Before It Was Cool, Derek Reinhart	
Breakout Session D .....	11
The Journey of Redesign, Traci Holder and Dana Matheny	
Building Student Relationships, Mallory Jacobs	
Growing Greenback Sprouts , Heather Teasley	
Engaging Educators in Meaningful Professional Learning, Dayna Richardson and Vicki Bechard	
Blue Print Leadership: Amplify Your Superhero, Dr. Keith Jones	





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# A Message from the Board

The Learning Forward Kansas Board of Directors would like to welcome each of you to the **2019 Learning Forward Kansas Conference**. The conference theme ***Empowering Redesign: Igniting Student and Educator Learning*** focuses on what each of us can do in our classrooms, schools, and districts to make a difference. As Educators in Kansas continue to strive to reach the “Moon”, our collaborative efforts will lead to success. We know the sessions you attend at this year’s conference will ignite these efforts and ensure that all students in Kansas are successful.

What will you learn over the next two days? On **Day 1** you will spend the day with Robin Fogarty (teacher, author, educational and professional learning leader) **learning how to unlock student potential**. Robin, in her recent book, *Unlocking Student Talent* provides many practical tips on how this can be done. She will help us explore these ideas through an interactive session. We will explore how we can teach thinking skills to engage our students as well as, challenging our students to remain focused, engaged, and inspired by what they are learning. Robin believes that for our students to **meet the test of life**, we must ensure they graduate with the academic, cognitive, technical, employability and civic skills required of our future citizenry. Also, participants will receive a copy of Robin’s new book.

On **Day 2** we will continue learning how we can **ignite student and educator learning** through keynote presentations by **Dr. Randy Watson**, KSDE and **Samantha Neil**, 2018 Kansas Teacher of the Year plus many breakout sessions. Both, Dr. Watson and Ms Neil will share insights into the **why** of redesign and **how** we can ignite, invigorate, empower and innovate our systems. Breakout sessions on Day 2 will focus on many of the factors we are looking at as part of our improvement process and redesign: skills for student success, personalized learning, real world application, family/business/community partnerships, change, and the KESA RESULTS (*Social-Emotional, Kindergarten Readiness, IPS, Graduation, and Postsecondary Success*). You won’t want to miss these sessions and learning from others throughout the state.

We would like to thank each of you for attending the **Learning Forward Kansas 2019 Leadership Conference** and collaborating with your colleagues over these two days as we support one another in structuring our systems to ensure the **success of all students**. Each of you will ignite student and educator learning. We hope you share what you learn with colleagues who attend the conference AND with other educators when you return to your school/district. Throughout this conference, stay engaged, keep focused on the success of all students and how we can **unlock student potential** through what we do each and every day.  
*#BetterTogether*

**LFKS Board of Directors**

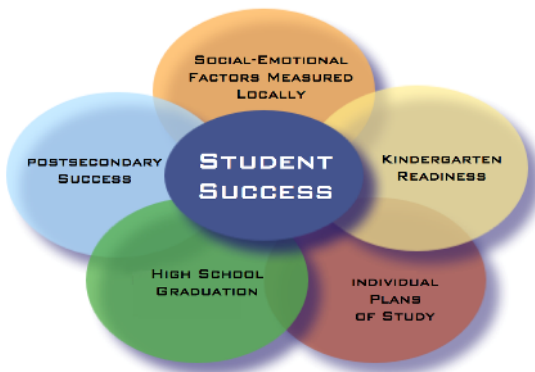
Ignite, Invigorate, Empower, Innovate

#LFKSConf 3

# Schedule at a Glance

Wednesday, January 30th	
7:30-8:00	Registration and Breakfast
8:00-8:15	Welcome
8:15-11:45	Keynote: Robin Fogarty
11:45-1:00	Lunch on Your Own
1:00-4:00	Keynote: Robin Fogarty
4:15-4:30	LFKS Business Meeting
4:30-6:30	LFKS Board Meeting

Thursday, January 31st	
7:30-8:00	Registration and Breakfast
8:00-9:30	Dr. Randy Watson, Kansas Commissioner of Education
9:40-10:40	Breakout Session A
10:50-11:50	Breakout Session B
11:50-1:10	Lunch and KTOY Keynote:
1:20-2:20	Breakout Session C
2:30-3:30	Breakout Session D



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# **Robin Fogarty**

## ***Preparing for the Test of Life: Unlocking Student Potential***

To kick off the 2019 conference, **Robin Fogarty** will lead a day long interactive session helping educators discover how teaching thinking skills is the key to student engagement. Her message is clear: When students are challenged at their level they remain focused, engaged and inspired.

Kansas shares her belief that to prepare students for the test of life, they must graduate with academic and cognitive preparation, technical and employability skills and civic engagement. With this kind of high quality of education, students will be fully prepared for the known and unknown challenges as our future citizenry.



Robin is president of Robin Fogarty and Associates, Ltd., a Chicago-based, minority-owned, educational publishing/consulting company. Her doctorate is in curriculum and human resource development from Loyola University of Chicago. A leading proponent of the thoughtful classroom, Robin has trained educators throughout the world in curriculum, instruction and assessment strategies. She has taught at all levels, from kindergarten to college, served as an administrator, and consulted with state departments and ministries of education in the United States, Puerto Rico, Russia, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Great Britain, Singapore, Korea and the Netherlands, as well as recent work in the US Virgin Islands and in the Kingdom of Bahrain. She is the author, numerous publications, including *Brain-Compatible Classrooms*, *Ten Things New Teachers Need*, *Literacy Matters*, *How to Integrate the Curricula*. Her forthcoming books on teaching thinking skills for International IB schools, on meta-cognition for BIG thinkers and one on ideas to support Schools on the Brink of Greatness are eagerly anticipated. Participants will receive a copy of Robin's latest book, *Unlocking Student Talent*.

# ***Dr. Randy Watson***

## ***Kansas Commissioner of Education***



Dr. Randy Watson was named Kansas Commissioner of Education by the Kansas State Board of Education in November 2014. He assumed his role July 2015 and has been an actively involved leader as Kansas education experiences significant changes in vision and practice.

As the state's chief education officer, he provides leadership to the Kansas State Department of Education in carrying out the policies and programs prescribed by the State Board of Education to ensure the necessary oversight and support is provided to assist Kansas schools, educators and students in achieving their goals. He has worked

closely with the State BOE to articulate the vision of *Kansas Leads the World in the Success of Each Student* and the mission of *Kansans Can* by conducting grassroots conversations throughout the state, transforming the accreditation system with KESA, and initiating the Moon Shot and Gemini Schools redesign initiatives. In addition, he has elevated the importance of and need for effective professional learning as schools and educators shift their practices in ways that support the State BOE goal of producing successful high school graduates who possess the skills and background preparation to be successful in postsecondary education, industry recognized certification, or the workforce, without need for remediation.

Dr. Watson began his education career in 1981 as a high school social studies teacher in Tescott, KS. He has served as a high school principal and provided classroom instruction at the university level. Most recently, Dr. Watson served the community of McPherson for 22 years — working as an assistant superintendent from 1993-2005 and as superintendent from 2005-2015.

A native of Coffeyville Kansas, Dr. Watson attended Kansas State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in science in secondary administration, staff supervision and staff development, building level certification. Additionally, he received his doctorate of education in secondary administration, school law, curriculum development and instructional leadership, and district level certification.

The recipient of many awards, Dr. Watson was named an Alumni Fellow at Kansas State and in 2015, was honored by being named the Kansas Superintendent of the Year. Throughout his career, Dr. Watson has been sought out by schools, districts, education organizations and

# ***Samantha Neill***

## ***Kansas Teacher of the Year 2018***



### **Redesigning the Kansas Teacher**

Teachers are the driving force in Kansas schools as we redesign our schools/systems to meet the needs of each student. This shift in our schools and classrooms requires a new understanding of teacher leadership and innovation. In this keynote, we will address what teachers need to be able to feel confident leading from the classroom and how administrators can support them in this transition.

### **BIO**

Samantha (Sam) Neill was the 2018 Kansas Teacher of the Year. She is currently teaching English Language Arts at Buhler High School, Buhler USD 313 - which has been her home for 16 years. She earned a BSE from Emporia State University in 2002, and completed her MS in Curriculum and Instruction from Wichita State University in 2008.

Samantha believes teachers must reach the whole child both socially and emotionally - not just teach content. This belief inspired her to start the BHS Clothing Closet and BHS Food Bank to help meet the needs of students at school. These two resources allow more access to needed clothing, food, and toiletry items for students. This belief transcends her classroom walls as she is a current foster-to-adopt mom, and an advocate for foster care and adoption within her community.

Currently Samantha serves as her district's PDC Chairperson, #GiveBackBuhler Sponsor, and Citizenship Day Organizer. She helped develop a district-wide, cross-curricular writing program; she presents this curriculum to districts across the state. She co-teaches a course for Baker University in the summer about Twitter and Professional Learning Networks, and she is co-founder of the #313Teach Twitter Slow Chat. She organizes professional learning events such as Edcamp313, and the statewide event Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teaching and Teachers (ECET2). She also presents at educational conferences such as the annual KSDE and Learning Forward Kansas conferences. Samantha believes in sharing her teaching story, and that *teacher voice must be strengthened to change the narrative surrounding public education.*



## Breakout Session A

9:40-10:40

### **Q & A with Randy Watson**

Dr. Watson will expand on KansansCan, KESA, redesign and the state board's vision for Kansas. He will also answer your questions and hear your comments. This is a perfect time to deepen your understanding of exciting changes happening in Kansas schools!

### **Redesigning Communities to Redesign Schools, Angie McDonald, McPherson USD 418**

Thinking about or in the process of redesigning your schools? Join us to learn how the McPherson community is wrapping around their school district in order to wrap around families and children.

### **Reach For Success, Jillian Toews, Hesston 460**

Reach for Success is a middle school daily advisory that goes beyond simply team building. Not only do students work together to solve problems, tackle obstacles, and learn about pertinent middle school issues; they also build a multitude of skills that can be represented on their IPS. Affording students this opportunity allows for meaningful self-reflection and avenues for post-secondary success. The many facets of Reach for Success positively impact students and our building in immeasurable ways. By focusing on monthly themes targeted around social-emotional learning and skill-building, students leave middle school and begin high school with a solid sense of who they are as well as the strengths they hold.

### **Relationships, Partnerships & Citizenship: Our Community School Journey, Dustin Springer, Merriam Park Elementary, Shawnee Mission**

A community school is a public school that celebrates success due to the partnerships we cultivate with community resources. Our integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development and community engagement leads to improved student learning, stronger families, and a healthier community. Attendees will learn about OUR journey, OUR frustrations, OUR successes, and how taking baby steps towards redesign is working for us. They will also be granted full access to OUR Bear Den materials, a component on Bearz II Men and On Giant Shoulders, as well as access to a variety of community schools research to see if it is right for you and your community.

### **First Impressions are Lasting Impressions, Jim Beam, McPherson USD 418**

Tired of the same ol' back-to-school event? Ever considered making home visits instead? We did it and we LOVED it! We're excited to share with you a variety of ways we tried to make meeting kids and families a positive, successful way to start the school year.





## Breakout Session B

10:50-11:50

### **Trauma Informed - Why it Matters, Cindy Blasi, Derby USD 260**

The education system can use the ACES study to acknowledge how life experiences impact the bodies' ability to self regulate. When educators understand both ACES and toxic stress, a mindset is created allowing for a safe and secure environment to be formed in schools. By creating an educational environment which ensures safety and nurturance for all, students will build relationships with other students and staff, promoting healing. They will in turn be better learners during the school day. Interventions and best practices to address self-regulation for both students and educators will also be shared in this presentation.

### **Redesigning Schools Using Badges, Steve Wyckoff, ESSDACK**

We heard Dr. Watson on several occasions talk about learning experiences we should consider, that happen outside of school. For example, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H, etc. So we tried them in schools. We will lead a discussion about the experiences and results we have had by using these learning experiences in a pilot program beginning last spring. This year middle school and high schools are piloting their use.

### **Supporting School Change with Integrated Data Management Using EduClimber, Kyle Carlin, Hays USD 489**

Our district's use of EduClimber has helped shape the conversations in our schools, and helped us use the data we were already collecting in more meaningful ways at the district, school, classroom, and student level. Participants will learn about the features of EduClimber that support data-based decision making and will develop key questions to ask when looking at data.

### **Collective Teacher Efficacy- What does this mean?, Jo McFadden, Inman USD 448**

Collective Teacher Efficacy is strongly correlated with student achievement. It is the belief in the ability to positively affect students. A staff with high Collective Efficacy show greater effort and persistence, willingness to try new teaching approaches, and attend more closely to struggling student's needs. A school staff that believes it can collectively accomplish great things is vital for the health of a school and if they believe they can make a positive difference then they will. Learn about six characters and leadership practices that lead to increased Collective Teacher Efficacy.



## Breakout Session C

1:20-2:20

### **Aren't Education Standards Just for Students?, Lynn Bechtel, KSDE**

How often have we heard, or even used, the phrase, "what students should know and be able to do," when describing what is measured by specific standards? Did you know there are actually standards to define "what teachers should know and be able to do" as well? The Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (inTASC) Model Core Teaching Standards outline what effective teaching should look like to ensure each PK-12 student successfully graduates and is ready for postsecondary education or a career after high school. They are the basis for other models with which you may be more familiar: Danielson's Domains, the KEEP Constructs, the Kansas Professional Education Standards, and others. In this session, we'll interact with the standards, crosswalk the various models, and learn of the ways they are embedded within the teaching profession—from preparation to retirement.

### **Adopting a Growth Mindset for Success, Vicki Bechard, LFKS**

Creating a culture of learning that embraces and practices Growth Mindset begins with the adults in the building and spreads to the students. Developing a Growth Mindset leads to a greater chance of success in school and post-secondary ventures. In this session, participants will identify key strategies and experience how mindsets work. We will consider how to enhance our own mindset and teach the traits, beliefs, and actions of Growth Mindset to students. Change your words....change your mindset.

### **The Redesign Loop, Shelly Graves, Oxford USD 358**

Oxford USD 358 staff will share their journey in redesigning their schools. The focus will be on STEAM, Community Connections, Social Emotional Learning, and the structures in place to lead teachers and students in their learning and growth in these areas.

### **Redesign Before It Was Cool, Derek Reinhart, Ness City USD 303**

Attendees will receive an in depth look at the process USD 303 has taken to reshape what education means in Ness City. We will discuss the journey we embarked on before Redesign was Cool, and explore how a change in mindset and culture has allowed Ness City Schools to step out side our comfort zone and do what is best for kids.



## Breakout Session D

2:30-3:30

### **The Journey of Redesign, Traci Holder and Dana Matheny, Andover**

Do you think that your school is ready to embark in the process of redesign? How do we get buy-in and support and how do we organize our time for staff? Come and learn from two Gemini II elementary schools as they share about their journey thus far.

### **Building Student Relationships, Mallory Jacobs, USD 501**

Grab your tools and hard hat! We will be learning and sharing ideas to build relationships with students! You will walk away with ideas, practices, and fun activities to help build a relationship with even the toughest student. And who knows, there may be prizes!!!!

### **Growing Greenback Sprouts, Heather Teasley, Pratt USD 382**

The traits identified to be a successful Uncommon Greenback include valor, grit, passion, respect, and team. We wanted another way to reach our students and how we could reach and teach a larger audience social and emotional skills while including life skills for the future. This led to having a school garden. During the process we developed partnerships with different companies and individuals to build our school garden. We will also visit about future plans and ideas to continue to redesign our school.

### **Leadership: Engaging Educators in Meaningful Professional Learning That Changes Practice, Dayna Richardson and Vicki Bechard, LFKS**

In this session experience Learning Designs (strategies or protocols used to frame professional learning) that are critical for deeper conversations, purposeful actions, and reflective practice. Examine and take home FREE resources (videos, facilitation guides, protocols, etc.) developed by and for Kansas educators that can be used tomorrow. The goal of every professional learning experience is to support excellent teaching and learning to improve student success.

### **Blue Print Leadership: Amplify Your Superhero, Dr. Keith Jones, Lawrence**

What is effective leadership? Leaders across the country that are effective in their role have learned how to build capacity within the staff in the building. Thinking outside the box, leading by example and not being afraid to take risk are key when effectively leading in school environments. How do we get the most out of our staff? In my session, we will discuss how leaders can work with staff to amplify their potential as educators. Demonstrating effective strategies, highlighting what processes work and sharing the key elements to a great school culture.

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